

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): In a wireless local area network (WLAN) gateway system comprising:

- an access gateway connected to a server;
- a session controller connected to said access gateway;
- a charging element connected to said session controller; said charging element maintaining charging details associated with a mobile handset;
- a rating element connected to said session controller; said rating element maintaining rating profile information associated with said mobile handset;

- an interface connected to said access gateway for connecting said mobile handset to said access gateway via said interface;

- a computing device connected to said access gateway via a WLAN access network;

- a method for providing access to said server from said computing device comprising:

- receiving at said access gateway authentication information for a subscriber associated with said computing device;

sending a first message from said access gateway to said mobile handset; and,

if no reply to said first message is received within a configurable interval from said subscriber then denying said computing device access to said server; and

if a reply to said first message is received, then permitting said computing device to access said server and, during said access;

sending an instruction from said access gateway to said rating element to determine a rate for packets carried between said computing device and said WLAN access network to establish a rate of charge for each of said packets according to a different classification assigned to each of said packets; and

sending an instruction from said access gateway to said charging element representing charging details associated with the access of said server by said computing device; said charging details based on said rate.

Claims 2 - 24 (Cancelled)

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said access gateway is an authentication, authorization and accounting gateway.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25 wherein said gateway is an AAA server.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said WLAN system further comprises a messaging interface connected to said access gateway and wherein said messaging interface is a short message peer-to-peer ("SMPP") interface configured to send and receive instructions to and from said mobile handset for modifying at least one of subscriber preferences respective to said rate of charge and sending information concerning the subscriber's identity for the purpose of non-repudiation.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said first message is a short message ("SM") configured to send information concerning an identity of said subscriber for the purpose of non-repudiation.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said WLAN system further comprises a messaging interface connected to said access gateway and wherein said messaging interface is an unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) gateway configured to send and receive instructions from said mobile handset for at least one of modifying subscriber preferences to said rate of charge and sending information concerning the subscriber's identity for the purpose of non-repudiation.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving one or more additional messages from said handset at said access gateway; said additional messages including instructions to modify subscriber preferences associated with said access of said server via said gateway.

Claim 31 (Cancelled)

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said charging details include incrementing a charge associated with charging detail record (CDR).

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said charging details include decrementing a voucher balance.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said charging details include decrementing a credit card balance.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 29 wherein said mobile handset accesses said (USSD) gateway via a home location register.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A wireless local area network (WLAN) gateway system comprising:

- an access gateway connected to a server;
- a session controller connected to said access gateway;
- a charging element connected to said session controller; said charging element maintaining charging details associated with a mobile handset;
- a rating element connected to said session controller; said rating element maintaining rating profile information associated with said mobile handset;

an interface connected to said access gateway for connecting a mobile handset to said access gateway via said interface;

a computing device connected to said access gateway via a WLAN access network;

said system configured to perform a method for providing access to said server from said computing device comprising:

receiving at said access gateway authentication information for a subscriber associated with said computing device;

sending a first message from said access gateway to said mobile handset; and,

if no reply to said first message is received within a configurable interval from said subscriber then denying said computing device access to said server; and

if a reply to said first message is received, then permitting said computing device to access said server; and, during said access;

sending an instruction from said access gateway to said rating element to determine a rate for packets carried between said computing device and said WLAN access network to establish a rate of charge for each of said packets according to a different classification assigned to each of said packets; and

sending an instruction from said access gateway to said charging element representing charging details associated with the access of said server by said computing device; said charging details based on said rate.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 36 wherein said access gateway is an authentication, authorization and accounting gateway.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 37 wherein said gateway is an AAA server.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 36 wherein said WLAN system further comprises a messaging interface connected to said access gateway and wherein said messaging interface is a short message peer-to-peer ("SMPP") interface configured to send and receive instructions to and from said mobile handset for at least one of modifying subscriber preferences respective to said rate of charge and sending information concerning the subscriber's identity for the purpose of non-repudiation.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 39 wherein said first message is a short message ("SM") configured to send information concerning an identity of said subscriber for the purpose of non-repudiation.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 36 wherein said WLAN system further comprises a messaging interface connected to said access gateway and wherein said messaging interface is an unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) gateway configured to send and receive instructions from said mobile handset for at least one of modifying subscriber preferences to said rate of charge and sending information concerning the subscriber's identity for the purpose of non-repudiation.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 36 further comprising the step of receiving one or more additional messages from said handset at said access gateway; said additional messages including instructions to modify subscriber preferences associated with said access of said server via said gateway.

Claim 43 (Cancelled)

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 36 wherein said charging details include incrementing a charge associated with charging detail record (CDR).

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 36 wherein said charging details include decrementing a voucher balance.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 36 wherein said charging details include decrementing a credit card balance.

Claim 47 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 41 wherein said mobile handset accesses said (USSD) gateway via a home location register.